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PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10980749-1



IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): John C. Eidson

Serial No.: 09/205,115

Examiner: Holloway E.

Filing Date: 12-3-98

Group Art Unit: 2635

Title: MOTION CONTROL USING TIME SYNCHRONIZATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith in *triplicate* is the Reply Brief with respect to the Examiner's Answer mailed on 6-1-04. This Reply Brief is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.193(b) within two months of the date of the Examiner's Answer.

(Note: Extensions of time are not allowed under 37 CFR 1.136(a))

(Note: Failure to file a Reply Brief will result in dismissal of the Appeal as to the claims made subject to an expressly stated new grounds of rejection.)

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Respectfully submitted,

John C. Eidson

By Paul H. Horstmann

Paul H. Horstmann

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 36,167

Date: 8-2-04

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Reply Brief
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

John C. Eidson

Application No: 09/205,115

Filed: 12-3-98

For: MOTION CONTROL USING TIME
SYNCHRONIZATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Appellant's Reply Brief (Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.193)

Dear Sir:

Applicant/Appellant submits this Reply Brief in connection with the above-referenced patent application which is on appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

Remarks

In response to Appellant's Brief of March 10, 2004, the Examiner has stated that

The Argument that Kawamura and Eidson lack the single axis control nodes each having a clock and coordinated using network time synchronization is not persuasive because claim 27 does not specify synchronization to "network" time and does not specify "control nodes" having a clock and only a signal axis. Claim 27 may be considered representative of the group I (18-22 and 27-37).

(Page 5, paragraph 4, Examiner's Answer, 6/1/04) (emphasis original).

Appellant submits that claim 27 recites methods steps carried out by a set of control nodes that each control motion along a single axis of a motion control system.¹ Claim 27 includes the steps of "for each axis" of a motion control system, obtaining a set of information via a network that pertains to a control value to be applied to the axis. Claim 27 further includes the steps of "for each axis" of a motion control system, applying a control value to the axis when a trigger time associated with the control value matches a time in "a clock associated with the axis."

Kawamura and *Eidson* do not disclose or suggest for each axis of a motion control system the step of obtaining a set of information via a network that pertains to a control value to be applied to the axis as claimed in claim 27. Instead, *Kawamura* discloses a control apparatus 20 that for three axes of a motion control system (*Kawamura*, Figure 1 and col. 2, lines 18-21) receives a set of commands for the three axes via a common RAM (*Kawamura*, col. 2, lines 22-24).

Furthermore, *Kawamura* and *Eidson* do not disclose or suggest for each axis of a motion control system the step of applying a control value to the axis when a trigger time associated with a control value matches a time in a clock associated with the axis as claimed in claim 27. Instead, *Kawamura* discloses a

¹ Claims 18-26 and 35-37 recite control nodes that each control motion along a single axis of a motion control system. It is submitted that the fact that the Examiner has selected claim 27 for his response is an admission by the Examiner that *Kawamura* and *Eidson* do not disclose or suggest a control node for controlling a single axis of a motion control system as claimed in claims 18-26 and 35-37.

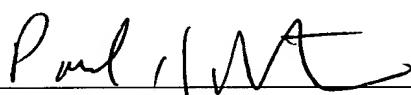
control apparatus 20 that for a group of axes of a motion control system (*Kawamura*, Figure 1 and col. 2, lines 18-21) starts applying pulses to the group when all commands for the group are received by the control apparatus 20. (*Kawamura*, col. 1, lines 59-64).

Appellant respectfully re-submits that the stated rejections cannot be maintained in view of the additional arguments set forth above. Appellant respectfully submits that all of the claims 18-37 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the references cited by the Examiner and requests that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences direct allowance of the rejected claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By

Date: 8-2-04



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